

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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## Child Dies in New Iberia Mobile Home Fire

**IBERIA PARISH-** State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a mobile home fire in New Iberia that claimed the life of a 6-year-old boy.

Around 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, Iberia Fire District #1 responded to a report of a residential fire located in the 2200 block of Hunter Drive in New Iberia. There were six children as well as two adults in the mobile home at the time of the fire. The children ranged in age from an infant to school-age.

Deputies learned some of the children noticed evidence of fire coming from a bedroom where a 6-year-old boy was last seen. All of the occupants except the 6-year-old escaped from the home. Efforts to rescue the boy from the outside of the home were successful, however, despite being transported to a nearby hospital for treatment, he unfortunately later died of his injuries.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies have been able to determine the fire did begin in the bedroom where the 6-year-old was pulled from. While the official cause of this fire remains undetermined at this time, SFM investigators are unable to rule out the possibility of the child contributing to a potential accidental cause.

In addition, deputies confirmed the home did not have working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are a proven tool to alert residents to a fire danger in order to escape safely, even in a mobile home. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operations Save-A-Life can help. The program partners with local fire departments to install smoke alarms for free. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, visit our website at lasfm.org.

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